

Please amend the claims as follows:

C6 1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus adapted for cutting holes in a body vessel or hollow organ comprising:

a cutting blade,

a controlled force to advance the cutting blade, and

B1 an anvil having a proximal surface against which the cutting blade is advanced wherein the cutting blade does not pass beyond the proximal surface of the anvil,

wherein the cutting blade rotates relative to the anvil while the cutting blade is being advanced toward the anvil.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for creating a hole in a hollow organ or body vessel comprising the steps of:

creating an incision in said hollow organ or body vessel with a sharp object,

B2 advancing a tapered trocar through said hollow organ or body vessel at the incision site until the trocar point has completely penetrated said hollow organ or body vessel,

locating a cutting blade coaxially disposed about said trocar so that said cutting blade is positioned correctly,

advancing said cutting blade into said hollow organ or body vessel under controlled force until said cutting blade fully rests against a blunt surface or anvil whose outside diameter is no less than the outer diameter of said cutting blade,

removing said cutting blade and excised tissue from the hollow organ or body vessel, and

rotating the cutting blade while said cutting blade is being advanced toward said anvil.

B3 15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus adapted for cutting holes in a body vessel or hollow organ comprising:

an anvil,

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BB

a cutting blade against which the anvil is advanced wherein the anvil positively stops against the cutting blade, and  
a controlled force to advance the anvil,  
wherein the cutting blade rotates relative to the anvil while the anvil is being advanced toward the cutting blade.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said controlled force is generated by a jackscrew to move the anvil against the cutting blade.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said controlled force is generated by a spring biased to move the anvil toward said cutting blade.

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